

Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

28 December 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: December 26, 2006

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches from southern Sarasota to Collier Counties and in Monroe County, north and west of the Keys. From today through Sunday, patchy very low impacts are possible in southern Collier County. On Monday, patchy low impacts are possible in southern Collier County, and patchy very low impacts are possible in southern Sarasota and southern Charlotte Counties. No other impacts are expected today through Monday throughout the identified bloom region.

Analysis

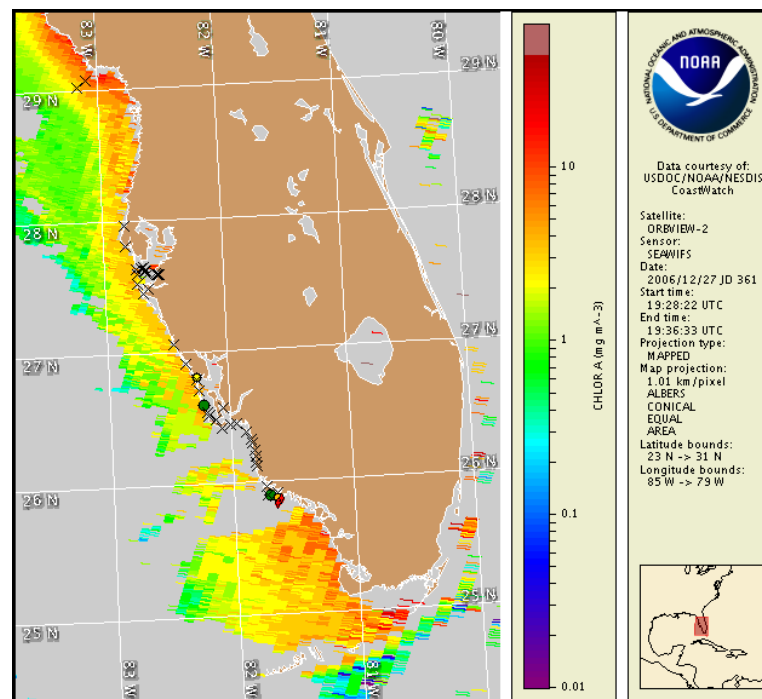
A harmful algal bloom persists at the coast in patches from southern Sarasota to Collier Counties, and additionally in offshore portions of Charlotte County. On 12/26, very low concentrations of *K. brevis* were identified at Blind Pass Park and Venice Fishing Pier (Sarasota County DOH). Satellite imagery has been partially obscured by clouds. Imagery from 12/27 indicates chlorophyll levels are near 3 $\mu\text{g/L}$ alongshore between Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor. South of Cape Romano at 25°30'N 81°36'W, imagery indicates chlorophyll levels are greater than 6 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Sampling is recommended. A wind transport model indicates minimal northward alongshore transport in southwest Florida over the last 5 days. Minimal offshore transport and slight intensification of *K. brevis* is possible through Sunday.

In the Florida Keys, recent samples contained up to background concentrations of *K. brevis* from Cudjoe Key to Key West. North of the Keys at 24°47'N 81°37'W, imagery indicates chlorophyll levels greater than 4 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Sampling is recommended. Slight westward transport is possible through Sunday. No intensification is expected through Monday.

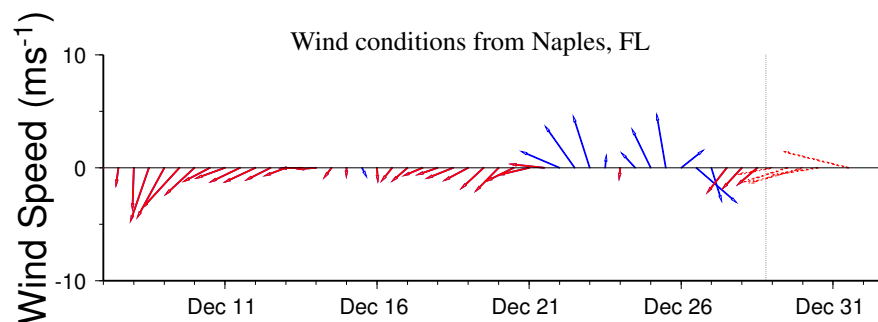
Bronder, Fisher

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.



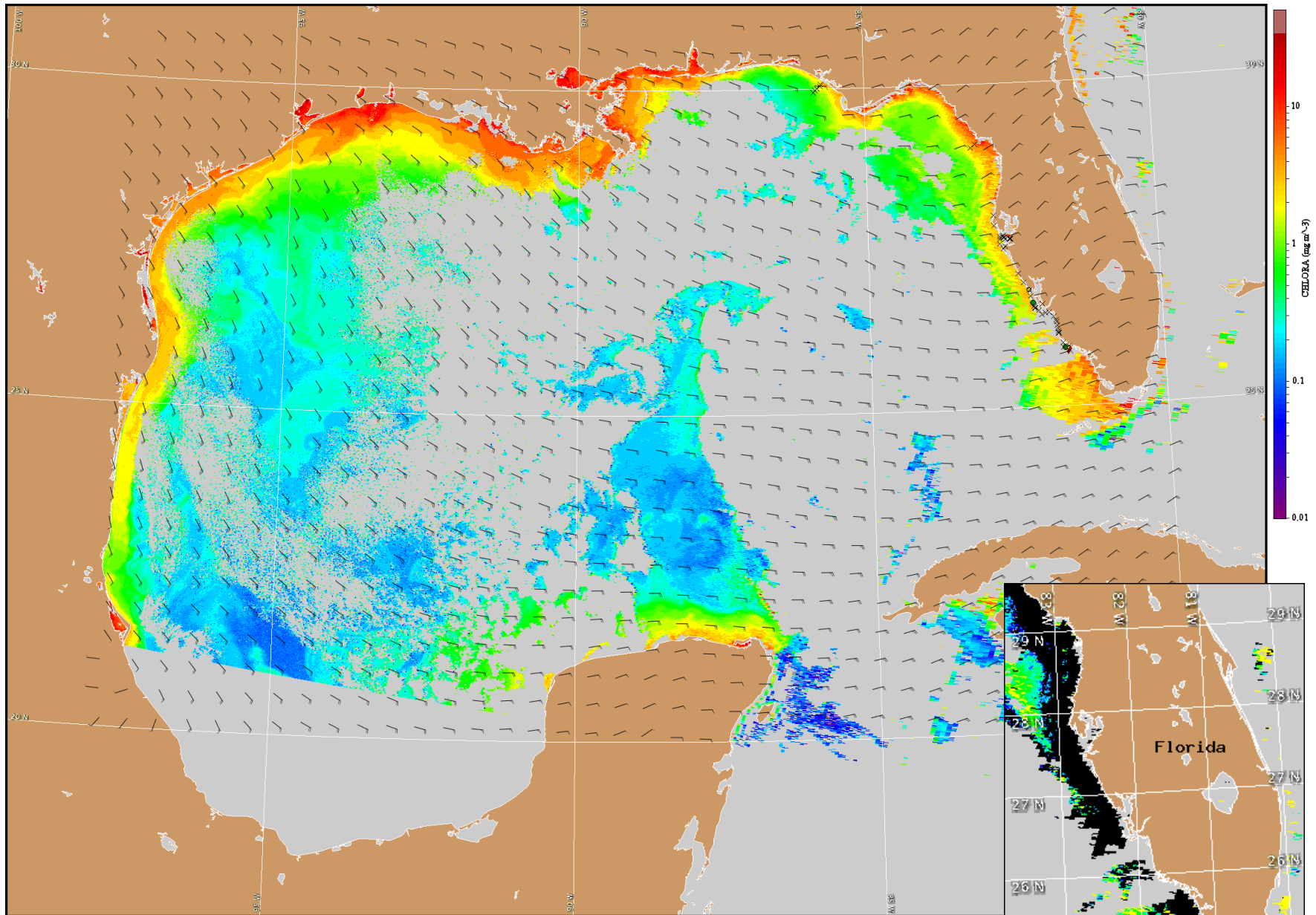
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration categories and corresponding cell count values from Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit <http://research.myfwc.com>. Cell concentration sampling data from December 18-27 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Winds will be east (10 kts, 5 m/s) today and tomorrow; southeast (15 kts, 8 m/s) Saturday and Sunday; south becoming west (10 kts, 5 m/s) Monday.

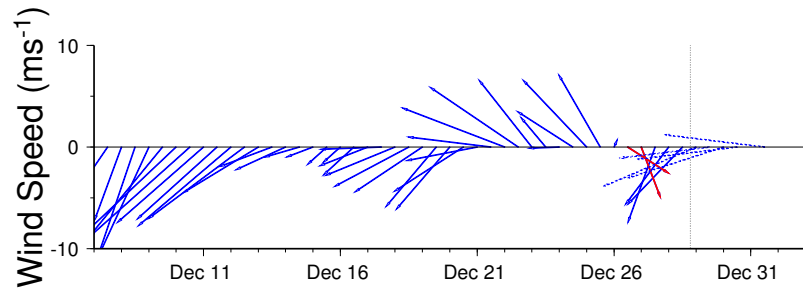
Florida Keys: Winds will be east (15 kts, 8 m/s) today through Saturday, southeast (15 kts, 8 m/s) Sunday, and south (15 kts, 8 m/s) Monday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for December 29, 2006 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from December 18-27 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Sand Key, FL



Wind conditions from Venice Pier, FL

